BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

A CORRESPONDENT NOTES SOME OF THE GENERAL'S PECULIARITIES.

His Strong Points of Individuality-Views Which Generally Run Counter to the Commonly-Accepted Ones-An Unherole Mishap.

[New York Cor. Chicago Journal.]

No man more odd than Benjamin F. Butler comes to town. He is here now. As he walks in Broadway, or sits in the theatre, or goes into court in the practice of his profession, he provides amusement for all spectators. Not many of our notables are the equals of their caricatures. But no portraiture of Butler in the most hostile of comic journals is an overdrawing of his strong points of individuality. The regard for him is a strange mixture of ridicule and respect. Put him into a suit of tattered clothes, start him off as a tramp and he would be so remarkable a figure in that grotesque walk of life as to defy competition, and make the dogs bark more in awe than aggressiveness. But he wears good clothes and has that unmistakable air of prosperity which is sure to command the respect of mercenary Americans.

"Butler is the funiest man on earth," remarks his fellow-lounger in the hotel corridor.

"I am told that he has accumulated half a

"I am told that he has accumulated half a million," says another observer.

Instantly the sentiment in the careless breast of the first speaker changes from amazed contempt to serious admiration. It may not be the same in Chicago, but here in New York a man if known by the bank account he keeps. The fact that Ben Butler is wealthy through his own efforts is enough to make us respect him, in a way; and I trust that I am offending no political prejudice when I write that Butler indigent would be merely a ridiculcular admirably eccentric. It is true, however, that he is an unsolved puzzle to those nigh him. The only certain conclusion is that he that he is an unsolved puzzle to those nigh him. The only certain conclusion is that he is the most entertaining of men. His conversation is unique. His views nearly always run counter to the commonly-accepted ones, and—stranger still—they do not impress the hearer as having been formed, like those of a professional philosopher, for the express and only purpose of astonishment. I asked him what he thought about journal-ism for instance.

"I love reporters and I hate editors," he answered. "It is a common fashion to regard all reporters as liars. On the contrary, I have, in a long and varied experienced, found them trustworthy. I don't mean to say that there are not wofully bad exceptions; but nine times in ten the published interview, the printed speech, the hurried account of any public occurrence, is far more accurate than the most conscientious and honest recollection of an unprofessional observer would afford."

Butter is a man of varied accomplish-

ents. He is one of the most elaborate of eaters. He is a sumptoous liver. When in New York, he literally demands the best that a fashionable hotel affords in the mattay of both lodging and meals. He has the exacting taste of an artist, and something of the skill of one, too. A curious habit of his is the using of a pencil on his finger nails. He uses the ends of his fingers to receive as well as make memoranda; and, while much of the data thus manicured is dry and statisfied, there are numerous victorial features. woman his nails are usually covered with hasty, covert sketches of what has particu-

However, I doubt if he made the slightest picture of the funniest thing that ever happened to him. It was in the Union Square theatre, which is furnished with chairs that are automatic to a degree involving machinery sufficient for a steam engine to every seat. These contrivances are the invention of Steele Mackaye, a curious individual, who wrote "Hasel Kirke," devised the double store in advantising use at the Made double store in advantising use at the Made of Steele Mackaye, a curious individual, who wrote "Hasel Kirke," devised the double stage in advertising use at the Madison Square theatre, isctured years ago on the Delsarte system of expression by pantomina. Each of the chairs belongs to a pair swiveled to a solid, iron post, to which it hangs in dependent uncertainty. The stranger who attempts to use it uninstructed by an usher is dismayed and dumfounded by the problem of how to get into it; but, when manipulated by an expert, it unfolds arms, a cushioned seat, a peg to hang his hat on, and even a place for the insertion of his unbrells or cane. On conforming himself to the right angles for a seated posture, he finds that the Mackaye chair fits itself to his shape with wonderful flexibility. Not only does it conform readily to the man with short legs to his long body, and to the other man with long legs to a short body, but on straightening instinctively for a yeawn you find that it so far transforms itself into a couch as to all but deposit your head in the lap of the person next behind you. The further and awful inherency of this chair is that, instantly on the sitter rising, it automatically withdraws itself from under him and adheres closely to its standard.

Behold Gen. Butter placidly seated in one of Mackaye's chairs. He had enjoyed the half-hour piace which opened the entertainment, for it was a neat little thing, and the long agons marrying of an actress has specially interested him in the intricacies of stagecraft. His hig baid head reminded me of the globe in the school of my childhood, than which no object of rotundity has ever more endurably impressed me. His massive shoulders and length of body made him as conspicuous as most sixfooters, and all gazes were immediately

body made him as conspicuous as most six-footers, and all gases were immediately transferred from the actors to him after the fall of the curtain. At this juncture, when fall of the curtain. At this juncture, when he was the focus of the audience, he rose to his feet for a stretch of his disproportion-ately triof legs. The chair silently folded its intricate parts, and stole away to hug its central standard. The statesman, having settled the kinks in his calves, reasonably supposed that he would drop gracefully into his seat again. The hard floor, away down on the level of his feet, was the first surface with which he came into cantact. His bulky head was just in sight, and it was more grohead was just in sight, and it was more gro-te-que and kaleidoscopic in expression than any comic rubber doll's while distorted by the unheroic nature of the mishap and the

stense thirst is satisfied by wading in as, or by keeping the clothing saturated a water, even if it is taken from the sea.

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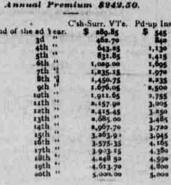
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